

§ 272.32

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deduction from the Operator's total ODS otherwise accrued. The Director, Office of Ship Operating Assistance, shall notify the Operator by letter with respect to:

(a) MARAD's determination of a penalty and the reasons therefore; and

(b) Whether the determination is final or subject to the submission of additional information.

§ 272.32 Mitigation of penalty.

The Director, Office of Ship Operating Assistance, may decide, after a non-emergency foreign repair occurs, to mitigate the penalty. Any mitigation of penalty shall be based on a determination that special circumstances existed at the time of repair. The Director shall not consider the difference in the price of foreign and domestic repair work in making this determination, and shall not grant prior approval of foreign repairs. In determining whether special circumstances existed, the Director shall consider, among others, the following factors:

(a) The trading area of the vessel both before and after the repair was performed;

(b) Loss of revenue and effect on vessel utilization if the vessel had returned to the United States for repairs;

(c) The additional operating expense which would have resulted from a return to the United States to repair the vessel; and

(d) Whether the repairs could have been deferred until return to the United States, taking into consideration the Coast Guard requirements for dry docking and special surveys.

§ 272.33 Appeals.

The Operator may appeal final penalty determinations of the Director, Office of Ship Operating Assistance, to the Board, as provided in § 272.43(c) of this part.

Subpart E—Examination, Audit, Review and Appeal Procedures

§ 272.41 Requirements for examination and allocation of M&R expenses.

(a) *Examination requirement.* Pursuant to the specific limitations on M&R subsidy in section 603 of the Act, the Region Office shall examine the expenses

submitted by an operator on Form MA-140 in order to determine eligibility to receive M&R subsidy and the reasonableness of such expenses.

(b) *Operator's responsibility.* During the examination, the operator shall provide, at the request of the Director or other official of the Region Office, any further documentation or information necessary to support an M&R expense. If such documentation or information, including information required under paragraph (e) of this section, is not received at the Region Office on a timely basis, the Director or other official of the Region Office may disallow the M&R expense.

(c) *Notification of examination results.* At the completion of the examination the Director or other appropriate official of the applicable Region Office shall notify the Operator by letter of the results of the examination, and shall state the reason for each disallowance of an item claimed for subsidy and/or each nonapproval of a marine loss item.

(d) *Record retention requirements.* To facilitate an audit examination of M&R made pursuant to § 272.42 of this part, the Operator shall maintain files arranged by vessel and voyage, which shall include, at a minimum, a copy of the Region Office notice letter, a copy of the Form MA-140 with all supporting documents submitted therewith, and the condition survey report. The Operator shall retain all the required materials in files for not less than 3 years after completion of the audit.

(1) *Limitation on approval.* Any approval for payment of M&R subsidy for a marine loss item shall be subject to rescission or modification if the Operator subsequently receives insurance or other compensation for the item. The Region Finance Officer may at any time request verification that the Operator has not received such compensation.

(2) *Status report on approved marine loss items.* The Operator shall advise the Region Finance Office by letter as to whether insurance or other compensation will be recovered for the marine loss item. The Operator is responsible for ensuring that the letter reaches the applicable Region Office within 120 days after: